

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the complaint of	)	
<b>J.C. HALLAMON</b> against <b>DTE ELECTRIC</b>	)	Case No. U-18429
<b>COMPANY</b> and <b>DTE GAS COMPANY.</b>	)	
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At the February 22, 2018 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,  
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Sally A. Talberg, Chairman  
Hon. Norman J. Saari, Commissioner  
Hon. Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

**ORDER**

On July 12, 2017, J.C. Hallamon (Complainant) filed a formal complaint against DTE Electric Company (DTE Electric) and DTE Gas Company (DTE Gas) (collectively, Respondents). In his complaint, Mr. Hallamon asserts that DTE Electric and DTE Gas improperly refused to test his electric and gas meters when he reported unusually high energy bills to the companies. He seeks that his meters be tested and replaced. On October 5, 2017, the Respondents filed a joint response and affirmative defenses.

An evidentiary hearing was held on October 19, 2017, before Administrative Law Judge Lauren G. VanSteel (ALJ), and was continued at the Complainant's request so that he could secure legal representation. The continued evidentiary hearing took place on December 19, 2017. The Respondents' attorney and witnesses appeared; however, neither the Complainant nor his legal representative appeared. After waiting more than 30 minutes, the Respondents moved for default

against the Complainant. The Commission Staff had no objection. The ALJ granted the motion based on the Complainant's failure to appear and proceed in support of his Complaint. 1 Tr 1-13; 2 Tr 14-18; Proposal for Decision, pp. 2-4. The record consists of 18 pages of transcript. There were no exhibits submitted to the record.

On January 10, 2018, the ALJ issued her Proposal for Decision (PFD) stating that Mr. Hallamon was afforded opportunity to present evidence in support of his complaint but failed to do so. Accordingly, the record was closed following a default ruling against the Complainant. The ALJ recommended that the complaint be dismissed. 2 Tr 14-18; PFD, pp. 5-6. Exceptions were due January 31, 2018, and replies to exceptions were due February 14, 2018. Neither exceptions nor replies to exceptions were filed.

The Commission agrees with the ALJ that Mr. Hallamon's complaint should be dismissed due to the Complainant's failure to appear at the hearing and the subsequent default ruling against him.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the complaint filed by J.C. Hallamon against DTE Electric Company and DTE Gas Company on July 12, 2017, is dismissed.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, under MCL 462.26. To comply with the Michigan Rules of Court's requirement to notify the Commission of an appeal, appellants shall send required notices to both the Commission's Executive Secretary and to the Commission's Legal Counsel. Electronic notifications should be sent to the Executive Secretary at [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov) and to the Michigan Department of the Attorney General - Public Service Division at [pungpl@michigan.gov](mailto:pungpl@michigan.gov). In lieu of electronic submissions, paper copies of such notifications may be sent to the Executive Secretary and the Attorney General - Public Service Division at 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Sally A. Talberg, Chairman

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Norman J. Saari, Commissioner

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Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

By its action of February 22, 2018.

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Kavita Kale, Executive Secretary